# MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

The Mississippi Tort Claims Board (Board) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building; 501 North West Street; Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

P. Ryan Beckett, Chairman

Jackson, Laura; Deputy State Treasurer, Representing Treasurer Lynn Fitch Kelsey, Christina; Representing Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney, MS Insurance Department

Upchurch, Kevin; Executive Director, MS Department of Finance and Administration Whitley, Onetta; Deputy Attorney General, Representing Attorney General Jim Hood

## Also present were:

Donaldson, Bruce; Tort Claims Board
Hopson, Senator Briggs; Senate
Kelly, Trina; Tort Claims Board
Logan, Jim; Tort Claims Board
McElroy, Lea Ann; Tort Claims Board
Younger, Jim; Department of Public Safety
Wilson, Jeff; Trinity Capital Investors
Woodcock, J. D. "Woody"; Attorney General's Office

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Mr. Upchurch to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2015, meeting. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There was no Old Business.

In New Business, Mrs. McElroy presented a staff recommendation to increase the bodily injury settlement authority for CCMSI from \$5,000 to \$10,000, bringing it level to their current property damage authority. The Board does retain the right to change the levels based on staffing and performance. A motion was made by Mr. Upchurch to approve the recommendation, which was seconded by Mrs. Whitley and passed unanimously.

Mr. Logan presented the financial report for fiscal year 2016 through December 31, 2015. The Cash Flow Analysis details assessment revenue of \$3.5 million (approximately 80% of the total assessment), total revenue of \$5 million, and total expenditures of \$3.8 million. Mr. Logan advised that we have total funds of \$15.2 million, including \$9.1 million in reserves and \$6.1

million in unencumbered funds. We have paid claim losses totaling \$1.5 million to-date, legal expenses of \$348,681 and other expenses of \$13,171. The average claim paid is just under \$4,000 and the average reserve is just over \$13,000. The Budget Comparison Report details 25% of allotted budget expended, with 50% or less spent in each category through the first allotment period.

Mr. Wilson presented the investment report through December 2015. The portfolio currently has just over \$13 million invested with a market value of just under \$12.9 million. The internal rate of return is just over 2%, the current book yield is 1.6%, and the market yield of the portfolio is just over 2%. The portfolio has earned just under \$200,000 for calendar year 2015. In the Performance Report, we see the internal rate of return at 2.06% and the total return for 2015 at 2.38%. Comparing our earnings to the index, we are down about 80 basis points for the internal rate of return, and up about 80 basis points for the total return. Looking at the portfolio composition, at the end of the year we were over-invested in Treasuries because we had to get back within guidelines for mortgage-backed securities. Lastly, we are moving away from managing this portfolio like a traditional tort portfolio, move away from having a large amount of money due in the first 12months, and push that out 2-4 years.

In Mr. Milner's absence, the Board received his report for information purposes.

Mrs. McElroy presented two (2) attorneys for inclusion in the approved Attorney Register: Ashley Nobile Lane of Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC in Grenada and Courtney Leyes Tomlinson of Fisher & Phillips, LLP in Gulfport. Both meet the eligibility requirements of the Board and staff recommends approval. Mrs. Whitley moved to approve and Mrs. Jackson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McElroy presented a list of 27 political subdivisions with the recommendation that all be approved for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Mr. Upchurch made a motion to approve the list and Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Whitley made a motion for the Board to enter Closed Determination Session to determine if there is sufficient subject matter with which to enter Executive Session. Mr. Upchurch seconded the motion, which passed. Mr. Upchurch then made a motion to set the agenda to discuss litigation strategies relative to agenda items VIII and IX. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, which passed. Mrs. Whitley then made a motion that based on the agenda, the Board does have sufficient cause to enter Executive Session. That motion was seconded by Mr. Upchurch and passed. Lastly, the Chairman announced the agenda and Mr. Upchurch made a motion for the Board to enter Executive Session, which was seconded by Mrs. Jackson and passed unanimously. Mr. Sumrall and Mr. Woodcock made reports to the Board. Mr. Upchurch then made a motion to exit Executive Session. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Woodcock announced his retirement effective June 30, 2016.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN
MIKE CHANEY, BOARD MEMBER
LYNN FITCH, BOARD MEMBER
JIM HOOD, BOARD MEMBER
GARY RIKARD, BOARD MEMBER
ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, BOARD MEMBER  Jeni J. Lell  KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, BOARD MEMBER

# Mississippi Tort Claims Board Thursday, January 14, 2016 – 1:30 P.M.

# **AGENDA**

I.	Approval of Minutes A. November 12, 2015
II.	Old Business
III.	New Business A. Third Party Administrator's Settlement Authority
IV.	Financial Reports  A. Financial Report – Jim Logan  B. Investment Report – Jeff Wilson
V.	Loss Control – Steve Milner
VI.	Attorney General's Report – Lea Ann McElroy
VII.	Certificates of Coverage – Lea Ann McElroy
VIII.	Claims Report – Bruce Donaldson  A. Estate of Woods & Lindsey vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation B. Steven Allen vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation C. Estate of Clayton Johnson vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation D. Matthew Kelly vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation E. Marquon Moore vs. Mississippi Department of Mental Health
IX.	Continued Discussion of Litigation Strategies

X.

Adjournment

# MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI TORT CLAIMS BOARD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015

The Mississippi Tort Claims Board (Board) meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. in Room 138, Woolfolk State Office Building; 501 North West Street; Jackson, Mississippi.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

P. Ryan Beckett, Chairman

Chaney, Mike; Commissioner, MS Insurance Department

Jackson, Laura; Deputy State Treasurer, Representing Treasurer Lynn Fitch

Kelsey, Christina; Representing Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney, MS Insurance Department

Lanford, Mike; Deputy Attorney General, Representing Attorney General Jim Hood Upchurch, Kevin; Executive Director, MS Department of Finance and Administration

## Also present were:

Davis, Thomas; Office of the State Treasurer

Donaldson, Bruce; Tort Claims Board

Kelly, Trina; Tort Claims Board

Logan, Jim; Tort Claims Board

McElroy, Lea Ann; Tort Claims Board

Milner, Steve; Tort Claims Board

Montague, Brian; Law Offices of Brian A. Montague

Preziosi, Misti; Office of the State Treasurer

Rayburn, Amanda; Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc.

Younger, Jim; Department of Public Safety

Woodcock, J. D. "Woody"; Attorney General's Office

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Mr. Lanford to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2015, meeting. Mrs. Kelsey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In Old Business, Misti Preziosi presented the Investment Policy which was amended following meeting with Investment Manager, Jeff Wilson. Mrs. Jackson made a motion to accept the Investment Policy as amended. Mr. Lanford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

In New Business, Board members reviewed the meeting dates for 2016. No conflicts were noted, so at present, the schedule will stand as noted.

Mr. Logan presented the financial report for fiscal year 2016 through October 31, 2015. The Cash Flow Analysis details assessment revenue of just under \$3 million (of a \$4.5 million total assessment) and expenditures of \$2.3 million. Mr. Logan advised that we have total funds of \$15.7 million, including \$10.2 million in reserves and \$5.5 million in unencumbered funds. We have paid claim losses totaling \$825,182 to-date, legal expenses of \$173,651 and other expenses of \$10,224. The average claim paid is \$2,797 and the average reserve is \$13,010. The Budget Comparison Report details 16% of allotted budget expended.

Mr. Logan also presented the investment report through October 2015. The portfolio currently has just under \$13 million invested. The internal rate of return for the calendar year is 1.21%, the current book yield is 1.81%, and the market yield of the portfolio is 1.74%. The weighted average life of the portfolio is approximately 2.5 years. The portfolio has earned just over \$154,000 for calendar year 2015, and over \$35,000 for the fiscal year. The portfolio is earning just over 1.2% compared to an index of 2.42%. On the total return, the portfolio grew at 2.56% while the index was 1.96%. With regard portfolio composition, Mortgage Backed Securities currently sit at 37% and that will come down to 30% by December 31 to stay in line with the Investment Policy.

## [Commissioner Chaney entered the meeting.]

Mr. Milner provided members a report of his Loss Control activities since the last Board meeting. Most notable are the 14 days of Mississippi State Fair duty in October. While we do not know attendance figures at this time, we report only one claim arising from the event.

No Attorney General's Report.

Mrs. McElroy presented a list of 136 political subdivisions with the recommendation that all be approved for renewal of Certificates of Coverage. Mr. Lanford made a motion to approve the list and Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. McElroy also presented a recommendation to approve the Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) Liability Trust for renewal. Membership has increased somewhat, combined projected losses are below projections, funding exceeds the 90% level, and MSBA will be required to continue quarterly reporting for the next year. Mr. Lanford made a motion to accept the staff recommendation for renewal. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, Mrs. McElroy presented a proposal from Singing River Health Systems to increase their deposit schedule from \$100,000 to \$123,393 for the next eight (8) months to get them to the 90% funding level by June 30, 2016. Following discussion, Mr. Lanford made a motion to approve the proposal, which was seconded by Mrs. Jackson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lanford made a motion for the Board to enter Closed Session for the discussion of possible litigation. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed. Commissioner Chaney then made a motion to set the agenda to discuss litigation strategies relative to agenda items VIII

and IX. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, which passed. Lastly, Mr. Lanford made a motion for the Board to enter Executive Session, which was again seconded by Mrs. Jackson and passed unanimously. Chairman Beckett asked all visitors to clear the room. [Mr. Upchurch entered the meeting.] Mr. Sumrall and Mr. Woodcock made reports to the Board. Commissioner Chaney then made a motion to exit Executive Session. Mrs. Jackson seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN	
MIKE CHANEY, BOARD MEMBER	
LANN FITCH, BOARD MEMBER	
JIM HOOD, BOARD MEMBER	
GARY RIKARD BOARD MEMBER	

ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, BOARD MEMBER

KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, BOARD MEMBER

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P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General Office of Attorney General GARY RIKARD, Executive Director Department of Environmental Quality ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, Commissioner Department of Public Safety KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, Executive Director Department of Finance and Administration

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

MS Tort Claims Board

FROM:

Lea Ann McElroy

**DATE:** 

January 14, 2016

RE:

Increased BI settlement authority for CCMSI

**RECOMMENDATION:** 

Staff recommends increasing the bodily injury settlement authority

for CCMSI from \$5,000 to \$10,000

- CCMSI has been our TPA since 2005, and we continue to be pleased with their performance.
- We have very open lines of communication with them.
- Their staff is stable, understands the Tort Claims Act/our claim rationale, and reports to Bruce every 30 days on every claim with a BI reserve of \$5,000 or more.
- Current PD authority is \$10,000, so this would bring BI in line.
- The increase will allow Bruce more time to focus on litigation cases.
- We retain the right to change these authority levels based on staffing and performance.

Combined Financial Report - Fiscal Year 2016 Fund 3080

#### ----CASH FLOW ANALYSIS-----

	ASH	November	515	December		/ear-To-Date
REVENUE:		November		December		rear-10-Date
Assessments Received		210,264.94		279,373.86		3,455,607.97
Interest		2,042.74		2,544.40		6,849.59
Investment Interest		25,229.85		16,407.25		129,182.20
Sale of Scrap		0.00		0.00		512.00
Transfer In Funds		500,000.00		0.00		1,500,000.00
Total Revenue	\$	737,537.53	\$	298,325.51	\$	5,092,151.76
EXPENSES:					***************************************	
Claim Losses - TCB and TPA		671,404.24		66,005.66		1,562,592.72
Legal Expenses - TCB and TPA		85,308.41		89,721.75		348,681.11
Other Expenses - TCB and TPA		2,180.71		765.90		13,170.93
Administrative Expenses Paid		65,666.19		51,594.38		412,753.84
Transfer of Funds - Out		500,000.00		0.00		1,500,000.00
Total Expenses	\$	1,324,559.55	\$	208,087.69	\$	3,837,198.60
FUNDS ON HAND:	-					
Beginning Balance	\$	15,758,349.07	\$	15,171,327.05		
Revenue		737,537.53		298,325.51		
Expenses		(1,324,559.55)		(208,087.69)		
Adjustments		0.00		0.00		
Total Funds		15,171,327.05		15,261,564.87		
Cash in Treasury	\$	2,206,340.64	\$	2,357,665.42		
Investment in Treasury	\$	12,783,301.00	\$	12,783,301.00		
TPA Trustmark Bank Balance		181,685.41		120,598.45		
Total Funds By Account	\$	15,171,327.05	\$	15,261,564.87		
Less Reserves	\$	9,490,082.98	\$	9,144,983.39		
Unencumbered Funds Available	\$	5,681,244.07	\$	6,116,581.48		
CLAIMS/R	ESEF	RVES DETAIL (\	'ea	r-To-Date)		
		Tort Board	1	Mgt. Services		TOTAL
Claims - Payments	\$	44,937.48	\$	1,517,655.24	\$	1,562,592.72
Claims - Legal Expenses		346,048.61		2,632.50		348,681.11
Claims - Other Expenses		-		13,170.93		13,170.93
Total Paid Out to Date	\$	390,986.09	\$	1,533,458.67	\$	1,924,444.76
OUTSTANDING RESERVES		624,211.75		8,520,771.64		9,144,983.39
Total Claims & Reserves	\$	1,015,197.84	\$	10,054,230.31		11,069,428.15
Number of Claims Created	<del></del>	313		305		618
Number of Claims Paid		120		274		394
Total Open Claims		207		494		701

NOTE: Information represents combined operations for Treasury Fund 3080 and the Trustmark account (utilized by CCMSI).

\$374.48

\$3,015.52

AVG. CLAIM \$ / # CLAIMS PAID

**AVG. RESERVE / OPEN CLAIMS** 

3,965.97

13,045.63

\$5,538.89

\$17,248.53

\$

\$

Budget Comparison Report Treasury Fund 3080 Fiscal Year 2016

Expenses:	Total Budget		November 2015		December 2015		Year To Date Expenditures		Ending Balance	Percent Expended
A1-Salaries	\$ 555,000.00	\$	46,028.12	\$	46,025.91	\$	277,451.84	\$	277,548.16	49.99%
A2-Travel	8,000.00		356.79		82.80		1,777.82		6,222.18	22.22%
B-Contractual	4,727,706.00		103,937.59		92,402.47		477,908.61	4	,249,797.39	10.11%
C-Commodities	8,300.00		602.20		161.55		1,437.53		6,862.47	17.32%
D2-Capital Outlay	3,500.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		3,500.00	0.00%
E-Subsidies	3,819,924.00		507,314.95		8,309.89		1,544,937.48	2	2,274,986.52	40.44%
SUBTOTAL	\$ 9,122,430.00	\$	658,239.65	\$	146,982.62	\$	2,303,513.28	\$ 6	,818,916.72	<u>25.25</u> %
TPA Expended			666,319.90		61,105.07		1,533,685.32			
TOTAL Expended		<u>\$</u>	1,324,559.55	\$	208,087.69	\$	3,837,198.60			



January 5, 2016

Ms. Lea Ann McElroy Mississippi Tort Claims Board P O Box 267 Jackson, MS 39205-0267

Re: December 2015 Portfolio Highlights

Total Portfolio	Book Value	\$13,040,929
	Market Value	\$12,931,832
2015 Internal Rate of Return		2.06%
Current Portfolio Book Yield		1.59%
Market Yield		2.03%
Weighted Average Life		Approximately 2.19 years
2015 YTD Earnings	0	196,059
Accrued Interest		35,755

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

# State of Mississippi Tort Claims

#### December 2015

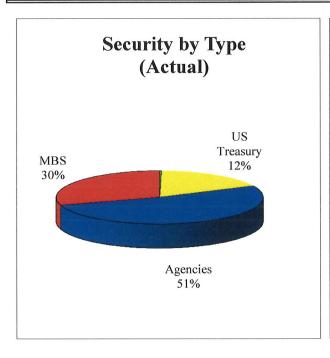
Portfolio Market Value December 31, 2014 12,710,803						
Contributions						
Withdrawals						
Realized Gains	8,803					
Unrealized Gains	-109,097					
Interest / Dividends	187,256					
Portfolio Market Value December 31, 2015 accrued interest	12,931,832 35,755					
Average Capital Total Gain IRR 2015 Total Return 2015 Current Yield	12,929,885 196,059 2.06% 2.38% 1.59%					

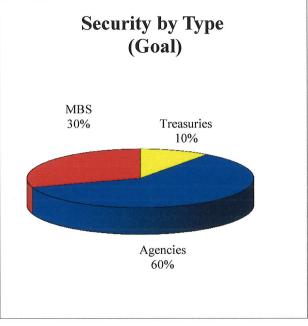
## **Investment Performance Comparison**

	IRR	TRA
Account	2.060%	2.38%
Custom Index	2.94%	1.51%

WAL of portfolio is 2.74 years

Security	Par Value	Current	Target	Goal
Type	12/31/2015	Mix	12/31/2015	Mix
Cash/ Liquidity	37	0%	0	0%
US Treasury	2,300	18%	1,300	10%
Agencies	6,750	52%	7,800	60%
Bullet Maturities	500	7%	1,560	20%
Callables	6,250	93%	6,240	80%
Floater	0	0%	0	0%
MBS	3,859	30%	3,900	30%
Floater	0	0%	0	0%
СМО	3,859	100%	3,900	100%
Pass Through	0	0%	0	0%
Municipals	0	0%	0	0%
Taxable		0%	0	100%
Tax Free		0%	0	0%
TOTAL	12,946	100%	13,000	100%

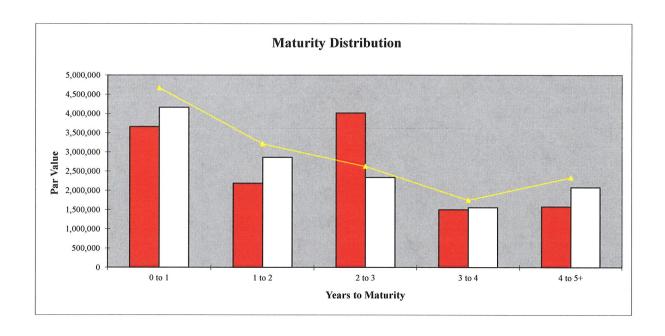




State of Mississippi Tort Claims Fund

## Maturity Distribution December 2015

Years to Maturity	0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5+	TOTAL	WAL
Actual Par Value	3,661,705	2,187,578	4,013,153	1,505,567	1,578,013	12,946,016	2.19
Target Value Dec 2015	4,160,000	2,860,000	2,340,000	1,560,000	2,080,000	13,000,000	2.16
Claims & IBNR a/o June '15	4,672,000	3,212,000	2,628,000	1,752,000	2,336,000	14,600,000	2.16



State of Mississippi Tort Claims

**Trinity Capital** 



P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General Office of Attorney General GARY RIKARD, Executive Director
Department of Environmental Quality
ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Mississippi Tort Claims Board

FROM:

Steve Milner

DATE:

January 14, 2016

RE:

Loss Control Report

Since the last Board Meeting, loss control services for the Tort Claims Board include:

- 2 Ride a Longs
- 11 State Property Inspections
- 1 Emergency Response
- 1 Defensive Driving Class
- 1 Risk Management Assessment
- 1 Risk Management Consultation
- 1 Floor Monitor Training Class



P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General Office of Attorney General GARY RIKARD, Executive Director Department of Environmental Quality ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, Commissioner Department of Public Safety KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, Executive Director Department of Finance and Administration

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mississippi Tort Claims Board

**FROM:** Lea Ann McElroy **DATE:** January 14, 2016

**RE:** Additions to Defense Attorney List

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of (2) attorney for

inclusion on Defense Attorney List

Honorable Ashley Nobile Lane Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC 2000 Gateway, Suite 160 Grenada, Mississippi 38901

Honorable Courtney Leyes Tomlinson Fisher & Phillips, LLP 2505 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202 Gulfport, Mississippi 39501

#### ASHLEY NOBILE LANE

GORE, KILPATRICK & DAMBRINO, PLLC 2000 Gateway, Suite 160 • Post Office Box 901 Grenada, Mississippi 3890 662.226.1891 Alane@gorekilpatrick.com

#### **EDUCATION**

#### MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW, Jackson, Mississippi

Graduated cum laude, May 2008

- Am Jur Award, Criminal Law, 2007
- Director, S.T.A.R. Program, 2008
- American Bar Association Leadership Award, 2008

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI, Oxford, Mississippi

Psychology, 2004

#### EXPERIENCE

## ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

January 2009 - Present

Associate Attorney at Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC

• Certified Mediator (2012-Present)

#### LAW CLERK

June 2008 - January 2009

Law Clerk for Third Chancery Court District Chancellor Vicki B. Daniels

Admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, The United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, and United States Bankruptcy Courts

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Grenada County Bar Association, President (2013-Present)

The Mississippi Bar Association

Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association

Third Chancery Court District Youth Drug Court Member (2012-Present)

#### CIVIC AND CHARITABLE INTERESTS

Grenada Community Foundation Board, Member (2013)

Grenada Community Foundation Board, Secretary and Executive Committee Member (2013-2015)

Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, Member (2013), Recording Secretary (2014, 2015)

Boys and Girls Club of Grenada Advisory Committee Member (2013-2015)

Elizabeth Jones Library Board of Trustees for Grenada County (2014–Present)

Grenada Sub-Deb Cotillion Sponsor (2014-Present)

Christmas in April Team Co-Captain (2013-Present)



www.laborlawyers.com

December 4, 2015

**New Orleans** 201 St. Charles Avenue

Suite 3710 New Orleans, LA 70170-1000

(504) 522-3303 Tel (504) 529-3850 Fax

Writer's Direct Dial: 504-312-4429

Writer's E-mail: sschneider@laborlawyers.com

VIA U.S. MAIL

Lea Ann McElroy, Administrator 501 North West Street, Suite 1301-C Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Lea Ann,

It was a pleasure speaking with you earlier this week. On behalf of the law firm of Fisher & Phillips, I have attached the resume of Courtney Leyes, an associate in our Gulfport and Memphis offices who is licensed in Mississippi. She is an excellent labor and employment law attorney and I am happy to provide you with professional references if you'd like. Fisher & Phillips LLP is one of the largest firms in the country representing management exclusively in the areas of labor, employment, civil rights, employee benefits and immigration law. Since our founding in 1943, we have developed and maintained a depth and breadth of expertise that is difficult for general practice firms to match. Courtney is one of our best attorneys and will be an excellent resource for the State of Mississippi.

I would appreciate Courtney being considered for approval at the next meeting of the Mississippi Tort Claims Board. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Schneider

Partner

For FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP

SDS:bll Enclosure

# Courtney Leyes Tomlinson

Current Address: 2818 N. Parkway, #2, Memphis, Tennessee 38112 Mobile: 901.387.7143 Email: CourtneyLeyes@gmail.com

## **EDUCATION**

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

May 2008 Graduate

Juris Doctor, Magna Cum Laude. GPA: 3.51 Rank: 25/175

University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, MO

May 2005 Graduate

Bachelor of Arts with Dual Majors: Political Science and History Honors College graduate with a 3.79/4.0 cumulative GPA

Incarnate Word Academy, St. Louis, MO

May 2001 Graduate

## **BAR MEMBERSHIPS AND COURT ADMISSIONS**

Missouri, admitted September 2008 (Bar No. 60716)

The District of Columbia, admitted June 2009 (Bar No. 983469)

Mississippi, admitted September 2009 (Bar No. 103158)

Tennessee, bar application pending

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Mississippi, admitted September 2009

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, admitted September 2009

U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee, admitted July 2013

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee, admitted October 2013

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, admitted September 2009

#### **EXPERIENCE**

Associate, Fisher & Phillips, LLP, nationwide labor and employment boutique firm May 2013 - present

- Supervise junior associates on employment litigation matters.
- Manage a number of complex pieces of litigation, including five Fair Labor Standards Act collective actions.
- Investigate EEOC charges and draft Position Statements on behalf of clients.
- Provide day-to-day advice to clients regarding various employee issues.
- Provide transactional services to clients by drafting/revising employee handbooks, policies, and procedures.
- Conduct management training for clients on a variety of topics.
- Regularly present on behalf of firm to groups of Human Resources professionals on a variety of topics (see attached list of recent presentations).
- Handled three wage and hour audits on behalf of clients before the U.S. Department of Labor and successfully negotiated settlements on clients' behalf with the federal government.

Associate, Jones Walker, LLP, formerly Watkins, Ludlam, Winter & Stennis, P.A. August 2009 – May 2013

- Second chaired three civil jury trials, two of which were employment discrimination trials.
- Successfully drafted various dispositive motions (see attached list of representative matters).
- Took a number of plaintiffs' depositions and defended a number of depositions, including a 30(b)(6) deposition.
- Presented regularly on various employment issues.
- Coordinated litigation of cases independently and communicated directly with clients.

Associate, The Law Office of Denise M. Clark. Washington, DC.

September 2008 - July 2009

- Independently worked as lead attorney for 30 plus employment discrimination and employee benefits cases.
- Engaged in motions practice by both drafting and responding to various motions.
- Conducted discovery by drafting interrogatories, document requests, and conducting depositions.
- Regularly interacted with firm's clients to discuss various aspects of their cases.
- Represented clients in EEO Mediations before the federal government.

Law Clerk, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission-Office of Legal Counsel. Washington, DC.

January 2008 - April 2008

Assisted the Assistant Legal Counsel by drafting guidance documents on a variety of employment issues.

Law Clerk, Board of Veterans Appeals. Washington, DC.

May 2007 - August 2007

- Reviewed veterans' claim files to make determinations on their respective cases.
- Assisted Veteran's Law Judges in writing veteran opinions.

Law Clerk, Tannehill & Carmean, PLLC. Oxford, MS.

June 2006 - May 2007

- Used legal knowledge to draft memos, complaints, and interrogatories for supervising attorney.
- Researched case law and statutes that specifically applied to upcoming cases.
- Used interpersonal skills to interview and meet with clients to complete discovery process.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

Northwest Mississippi Chapter, Society for Human Resource Management, Director of Membership/Director of Legislation.

May 2011 – Current

Federal Bar Association, Labor & Employment Section, Awards Chair

Sept. 2013 - Current

Mississippi Law Journal, Notes and Comments Editor.

September 2006 - May 2008

#### ABA Labor and Employment Law Trial Advocacy Competition.

September 2007 - November 2007

- Prepared for competition by writing opening arguments, direct and cross examination questions, as well as anticipated various evidentiary objections.
- Presented as counsel as well as a witness at competition.
- Participated as an attorney evaluator in November 2008.

#### Delta Gamma Fraternity, University of Missouri - Columbia.

August 2001 - May 2005

- University of Missouri's Homecoming Steering Committee, 2004.
- Rockin' Against Multiple Sclerosis Steering Committee, 2005.

#### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

William Gates Scholarship recipient (Mar. 2007).

- Given to one 2L student in honor of a former law student who was killed in a car accident.
- Award is given based upon a personal interview.

"Top Westlaw Student Representative" (Dec. 2006, May 2007, Dec. 2007).

#### REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Wright v. Custom Ecology, Inc., 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 56433 (S.D. Miss. Apr. 19, 2013)
- · Crabb v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 131911 (N.D. Miss. Sept. 7, 2012)
- Braxton v. Resorts Casino, 2012 Miss. App. LEXIS 604 (Miss. Ct. App. Oct. 2, 2012)
- · Card v. Fred's Stores of Tenn., Inc., 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 74502 (N.D. Miss. Jul. 11, 2011)

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- "The Times They Are A-Changin' How HR Professionals Can Handle Workplace Issues Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity," HR Professionals Magazine, Jun. 18, 2014
- "Travel Pay: Master the Rules of the Travel Pay Highway to Ensure FLSA Compliance," BLR Webinar, May 15, 2014
- "Sexual Orientation Legal Issues in the Workplace Feeling Uncertain? A Survival Guide for the HR Professional" – Mississippi State SHRM Convention, May 2014
- "Let's Talk About Sext(s) "High Tech Sexual Harassment," HR Professionals Magazine, Aug. 2, 2014



P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN

MIKE CHANEY, Commissioner Insurance Department LYNN FITCH, Treasurer Department of Treasury JIM HOOD, Attorney General Office of Attorney General

GARY RIKARD, Executive Director Department of Environmental Quality ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, Commissioner Department of Public Safety KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, Executive Director Department of Finance and Administration

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Mississippi Tort Claims Board

FROM:

Lea Ann McElroy

DATE:

January 14, 2016

RE:

Political Subdivisions – Certificates of Coverage

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of 27 political

subdivisions shown on attached list.

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Political Subdivisions Recommended for Renewal of Certificate of Coverage

AAA Ambulance Service, Inc.

Bayside Fire District

Belden Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

Cedar Hill Volunteer Fire Department

Delta Regional Medical Center

George County Board of Supervisors

Hancock County Board of Supervisors

Issaquena County Board of Supervisors

Issaquena County SWCD

Kemper County School District

Kiln Utility and Fire Protection

Lamar County Board of Supervisors

Lewisburg Volunteer Fire Department

Love Volunteer Fire Department

Magnolia Regional Health Center

Mississippi Housing Authorities Risk Management, Inc.

Otter Bayou Drainage District

Panola County Firefighters Association

Pearl River Community College

Pearl River County Board of Supervisors

Runnelstown Water District

Simpson County Board of Supervisors

Smith County Board of Supervisors

South Sunflower County Hospital

City of Tupelo

Walthall County Board of Supervisors

Winston County Board of Supervisors

#### Total 27



P. RYAN BECKETT, CHAIRMAN

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Department of Environmental Quality
ALBERT SANTA CRUZ, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
KEVIN J. UPCHURCH, Executive Director
Department of Finance and Administration

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mississippi Tort Claims Board

**FROM:** Bruce Donaldson **DATE:** January 14, 2016

Estate of Woods & Lindsey vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation

Steven Allen vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation

Estate of Clayton Johnson vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation

Matthew Kelly vs. Mississippi Department of Transportation

Marquon Moore vs. Mississippi Department of Mental Health